



News Release

PO Box 360, Trenton, N.J. 08625-0360

Fred M. Jacobs, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

For Release:
February 21, 2006

For Further Information, Contact
(609) 984-7160

Department of Health and Senior Services Proposes to Readopt N.J.A.C. 8:43E, General Licensure Procedures and Enforcement of Licensure Regulations

The Certificate of Need and Acute Care Licensure Program in the Division of Health Care Quality and Oversight of the Health Care Quality and Oversight Branch of the Department of Health and Senior Services (Department) is proposing to readopt N.J.A.C. 8:43E, General Licensure Procedures and Enforcement of Licensure Regulations. The notice of proposal appears in the February 21, 2006 issue of the New Jersey Register.

N.J.A.C. 8:43E governs health care facilities subject to the Health Care Facilities Planning Act (Act), N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq. The Act authorizes the Commissioner of the Department to promulgate rules that ensure the delivery of high quality health care services; inquire into the operations of health care facilities and certain health care services through the survey and inspection process; and impose enforcement actions that include an assessment of civil monetary penalties upon those facilities that fail to comply with applicable licensure standards. Under the Act, the Department licenses a broad range of acute and long-term health care facilities, including acute care hospitals, ambulatory care facilities, home health agencies, comprehensive rehabilitation hospitals, hospice care facilities, maternal and child health consortia, adult day care centers, nursing homes, residential health care facilities, assisted living residences, and comprehensive personal care homes. The Department has promulgated rules in service-specific chapters under Title 8 of the New Jersey Administrative Code that set forth minimum requirements to ensure public health and safety. The rules proposed for readoption at N.J.A.C. 8:43E establish requirements of general applicability to all of these types of facilities.

The rules proposed for readoption would continue to provide the regulatory framework to protect patient care and employee health in the health care environment, bring uniformity and consistency to the delivery of health care and the licensure and inspection of health care facilities Statewide, ensure quality care in health care facilities through its oversight and regulatory activities, protect patients and employees in health care facilities, foster compliance with applicable licensure standards, and permit the Department to continue to ensure the quality of health care services provided by licensed facilities through adherence to minimum standards of care, effective inspections, and appropriate enforcement.

The public has until April 22, 2006 to comment on the proposal. Persons wishing to comment on the proposal must submit their comments in writing to John A. Calabria, Director, Certificate of Need and Acute Care Licensure Program, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, P O Box 360, Room 403, Trenton, NJ 08625-0360. Written comments on the proposal

must be postmarked on or before April 22, 2006, which is the close of the 60-day public comment period.

#

NOTE: Additional rule information is available on the department's web site at <http://www.state.nj.us/health/rules/other.shtml>.